

## **II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claims 1 - 101 (Cancelled)

102. (Previously presented) A server for streaming a data signal over a transmission link to a client for streaming playback at the client, the data signal comprising a sequence of data units including primary data units and secondary data units, the primary and secondary data units having a scheduled playback time for streaming playback at the client, the primary and secondary data units being ordered in the data signal according to an original data unit order, the server comprising a re-ordering unit for changing the order of primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units by exchanging a secondary data unit that precedes a primary data unit in the original data unit order with the primary data unit so as produce a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order in which the primary data unit precedes the secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, thereby increasing the likelihood that the primary data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time during streaming playback at the client.

103. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, in which the primary data units represent a base layer and the secondary data units represent at least one enhancement layer.

104. (Cancelled)

105. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, in which the data signal is scalable.

106. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 105, in which the signal is scalable in a domain selected from the group consisting of the temporal, the spatial, the spectral and the SNR domains.

107. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102 which comprises an editor for providing the data signal.

108. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102 in which the data signal represents a sequence of pictures to produce a moving image.

109. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 108 in which the data signal represents a video sequence.

110. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102 in which the data signal comprises multimedia data.

111. (Previously presented) A data transmission system including a server for streaming a data signal over a transmission link from the server to a client for streaming playback at the client, the data signal comprising a sequence of data units including primary data units and secondary data units, the primary and secondary data units having a scheduled playback time for streaming playback at the client, the primary and secondary data units being ordered in the data signal according to an original data unit order, the system comprising a re-ordering unit, for changing the order the primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units by exchanging a secondary data unit that precedes a primary data unit in the original

data unit order with the primary data unit so as to produce a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order in which the primary data unit precedes the secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, thereby increasing the likelihood that the primary data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time during streaming playback at the client.

112-113. (Cancelled)

114. (Previously presented) A data transmission system according to claim 111, in which the server comprises an editor for providing a scalable data signal.

115. (Cancelled)

116. (Previously presented) A data transmission system according to claim 111, in which the client is a mobile terminal.

117. (Previously presented) A data transmission system according to claim 111, in which the client is a mobile telephone.

118. (Previously presented) A data transmission system according to claim 111, in which means are provided to check the progress of transmission and to change the data unit order being used to one better suited to available bandwidth.

119. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal over a transmission link from a server to a client for streaming playback at the client, the data signal

comprising a sequence of data units including primary data units and secondary data units, the primary and secondary data units having a scheduled playback time for streaming playback at the client, the primary and secondary data units being ordered in the data signal according to an original data unit order, the method comprising changing the order of primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units by exchanging a secondary data unit that precedes a primary data unit in the original data unit order with the primary data unit so as to produce a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order in which the primary data unit precedes the secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, thereby increasing the likelihood that the primary data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time during streaming playback at the client.

120. (Previously presented) A method of transmitting a data signal according to claim 119, in which the primary and secondary data units are returned to the original data unit order once they have been transmitted over the transmission link.

121. (Previously presented) A method of transmitting a data signal according to claim 119, comprising checking the progress of transmission and changing the data unit the order to one better suited to available bandwidth.

122. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program executable by one or more processors product stored on a computer readable medium, wherein a computer code of the program comprises instructions, when executed, directing the one or more processors the program causing the computer to perform a method comprising:

streaming a data signal over a transmission link from a server to a client for streaming playback at a client, the data signal comprising a sequence of data

units including primary data units and secondary data units, the primary and secondary data units having a scheduled playback time at the client, the primary and secondary data units being ordered in the data signal according to an original data unit order,

changing the order of primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units by exchanging a secondary data unit that precedes a primary data unit in the original data unit order with the primary data unit so as to produce a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order in which the primary data unit precedes the secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, thereby increasing the likelihood that the primary data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time during streaming playback at the client.

123. (Cancelled)

124. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises an editing of the data signal comprising an editor for providing a scalable data signal.

125-128. (Cancelled)

129. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to:

- calculate a buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data

unit order at a full transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;

- calculate a buffering time required at the client for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client, when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data unit order at a reduced transmission rate less than the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- shift the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units, so that where a primary data unit is preceded by a secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, the positions of the primary and secondary data units are exchanged, thereby producing a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order different from the original data unit order;
- re-calculate the buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal assuming the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order;
- re-calculate the buffering time for reduced quality playback of the data signal at the client assuming the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order;
- repeat the step of shifting the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units and the steps of re-calculating the buffering times required for full and reduced quality streaming playback at the client until the buffering time required for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client is greater than or equal to the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client.

130. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 129, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to calculate the buffering time for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client by:

- determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data unit to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time;
- if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
- repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

131. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 129, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to calculate the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client by:

- determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to an average bit-rate for the primary data units plus a certain percentage of an average bit-rate for the secondary data units;

- comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data unit to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time;
- if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
- repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

132. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to estimate an expected reduced channel transmission rate in advance.

133. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to estimate an expected reduced channel transmission rate based on statistics obtained from the behaviour of the transmission channel.

134. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to re-order the data signal to produce re-ordered data signals for several alternative transmission rates.

135. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to adjust the sequence of data units dynamically whilst transmission is occurring.



136. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is further arranged to replace some of the primary data units with secondary data units before changing the order of the primary and secondary data units.

137. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to re-order the data units of a data signal for transmission over a transmission channel having a data transmission bandwidth that would otherwise be insufficient for transmitting the data signal.

138. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to re-order the data units of a data signal for streaming over a transmission channel so as to make a certain portion of an available bandwidth available for transmission of other data.

139. (Previously presented) A server according to claim 102, wherein the data signal is a digital video signal, the primary data units comprise INTRA coded I frames and INTER coded P frames and the secondary data units are bi-directionally predicted B frames.

140. (Previously presented) A data transmission system according to claim 111, wherein the re-ordering unit is arranged to re-order the data signal to produce re-ordered data signals for several alternative transmission rates and the data transmission system is arranged to switch to a re-ordered data signal better suited to a lower transmission rate if problems are encountered due to pauses in streaming playback at the client.

141. (Previously presented) A data transmission system according to claim 111, wherein the data transmission system is arranged to check the progress of at least one of transmission and playback at the client and the re-ordering unit is arranged to adjust the sequence of data units dynamically whilst transmission is occurring.

142. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, comprising:

- calculating a buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data unit order at a full transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- calculating a buffering time required at the client for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client, when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data unit order at a reduced transmission rate less than the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- shifting the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units, so that where a primary data unit is preceded by a secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, the positions of the primary and secondary data units are exchanged, thereby producing a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order different from the original data unit order;
- re-calculating the buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal assuming the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order;

- re-calculating the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client assuming the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order;
- repeating the step of shifting the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units and the steps of re-calculating the buffering times required for full and reduced quality streaming playback at the client until the buffering time required for full quality streaming playback at the client is greater than or equal to the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client.

143. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 142, wherein the buffering time for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client is calculated by:

- determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time;
- if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
- repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

144. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 142, wherein the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client is calculated by:

- determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to an average bit-rate for the primary data units plus a certain percentage of an average bit-rate for the secondary data units;
- comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data unit to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time;
- if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
- repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

145. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, comprising estimating an expected reduced channel transmission rate in advance.

146. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, comprising estimating an expected reduced channel transmission rate based on statistics obtained from the behaviour of the transmission channel.

147. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, comprising:

- re-ordering the data signal to produce re-ordered data signals for several alternative transmission rates; and
- switching to a re-ordered data signal better suited to a lower transmission rate if problems are encountered due to pauses in streaming playback at the client.

148. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, comprising checking the progress of at least one of transmission and playback at the client and adjusting the sequence of data units dynamically whilst transmission is occurring.

149. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, further comprising replacing some of the primary data units with secondary data units, before changing the order of the primary and secondary data units.

150. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, comprising applying the method to re-order the data units of a data signal for transmission over a transmission channel having a data transmission bandwidth that would otherwise be insufficient for transmitting the data signal.

151. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, comprising applying the method to re-order the data units of a data signal for

streaming over a transmission channel, so as to make a certain portion of an available bandwidth available for transmission of other data.

152. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, wherein the data signal is a digital video signal, the primary data units comprise INTRA coded I frames and INTER coded P frames and the secondary data units are bi-directionally predicted B frames.

153. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 119, wherein the data signal is a scalable data signal having a base layer and at least one enhancement layer.

154. (Previously presented) A method of streaming a data signal according to claim 153, wherein the data signal is signal is scalable in a domain selected from a group consisting of the temporal, the spatial, the spectral and the SNR domains.

155. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium program-product according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises:

- ~~computer-readable-program-means-for~~ calculating a buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data unit order at a full transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;

- ~~computer readable program means for~~ calculating a buffering time required at the client for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client, when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data unit order at a reduced transmission rate less than the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- ~~computer readable program means for~~ shifting the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units, so that where a primary data unit is preceded by a secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, the positions of the primary and secondary data units are exchanged, thereby producing a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order different from the original data unit order;
- ~~computer readable program means for~~ re-calculating the buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal assuming the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order;
- ~~computer readable program means for~~ re-calculating the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client assuming the data units are streamed from over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order;
- ~~computer readable program means for~~ repeating the step of shifting the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units and the steps of re-calculating the buffering times required for full and reduced quality streaming playback at the client until the buffering time required for full quality streaming playback at the client is greater than or equal to the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client.

156. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 155, wherein the method further comprises:

- calculating the buffering time for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client by:
  - determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;
  - comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to played back at its scheduled playback time;
  - if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
  - repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

157. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 155, wherein the method further comprises:

- calculating the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client by:
  - determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to an average bit-rate for the primary data



units plus a certain percentage of an average bit-rate for the secondary data units;

- comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data unit to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time;
- if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
- repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

158. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises estimating an expected reduced channel transmission rate in advance.

159. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises estimating an expected reduced channel transmission rate based on statistics obtained from the behaviour of the transmission channel.

160. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises :

- re-ordering the data signal to produce re-ordered data signals for several alternative transmission rates; and

- switching to a re-ordered data signal better suited to a lower transmission rate if problems are encountered due to pauses in streaming playback at the client.

161. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises :

- checking the progress of transmission and checking the progress of playback at the client; and
- adjusting the sequence of data units dynamically whilst transmission is occurring.

162. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises replacing some of the primary data units with secondary data units, before changing the order of the primary and secondary data units.

163. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises changing the order of the primary and secondary data units is arranged to re-order the data units of a data signal for transmission over a transmission channel having a data transmission bandwidth that would otherwise be insufficient for transmitting the data signal.

164. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~program-product~~ according to claim 122, wherein the method further comprises changing the order of the primary and secondary data units is arranged to re-order the data units of a data

signal for streaming over a transmission channel, so as to make a certain portion of an available bandwidth available for transmission of other data.

165. (Currently Amended) A server for streaming a data signal over a transmission link, the server re-ordering device for re-ordering a the data signal for streaming over a transmission channel ~~from a server~~ to a client for playback at the client, the data signal comprising a sequence of data units including primary data units and secondary data units, the primary and secondary data units having a scheduled playback time for streaming playback at the client, the primary and secondary data units being ordered in the data signal according to an original data unit order, the ~~re-ordering device being arranged to~~ being accomplished by:

- ~~identify~~ identifying primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units;
- ~~determine~~ determining a relative importance of the primary and secondary data units; and
- ~~change~~ changing the order of the primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units by exchanging a secondary data unit that precedes a primary data unit in the original data unit order with the primary data unit so as to produce a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order in which the primary data unit precedes the secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, thereby increasing the likelihood that the primary data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time during streaming playback at the client.

166. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 165, wherein the ~~re-ordering device is arranged to~~ further comprises:

- ~~calculate~~ calculating a buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data unit order at a full transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- ~~calculate~~ calculating a buffering time required at the client for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client, when the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the original data unit order at a reduced transmission rate less than the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- shifting the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units, so that where a primary data unit is preceded by a secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, the positions of the primary and secondary data units are exchanged, thereby producing a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order different from the original data unit order;
- ~~re-calculate~~ re-calculating the buffering time required at the client for full quality streaming playback of the data signal assuming the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order;
- ~~re-calculate~~ re-calculating the buffering time for reduced quality playback of the data signal at the client assuming the data units are streamed over the transmission channel from the server to the client in the modified data unit order; and
- repeating the step of shifting the position of each primary data unit in the sequence of data units towards the beginning of the sequence of data units and the steps of re-calculating the buffering times required for full and reduced quality streaming playback at the client until the buffering time

required for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client is greater than or equal to the buffering time for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client.

167. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 166, wherein the ~~re-ordering device is arranged to calculate~~ calculating of the buffering time<sub>z</sub> for full quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client<sub>z</sub> ~~by comprises:~~

- determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to the average bit-rate of the data signal;
- comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data unit to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to played back at its scheduled playback time;
- if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
- repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

168. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 166, wherein the ~~re-ordering device is arranged to calculate~~ calculating of the buffering time<sub>z</sub> for reduced quality streaming playback of the data signal at the client<sub>z</sub> ~~by comprises:~~

- determining a time by which a first data unit of the data signal will be ready for playback at the client assuming that the transmission channel has a constant transmission rate equal to an average bit-rate for the primary data units plus a certain percentage of an average bit-rate for the secondary data units;
- comparing the time when the first data unit will be ready for playback at the client with the scheduled playback time of the first data unit to determine whether the first data unit will be received at the client in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time;
- if the first data unit will be received at the client too late to be played back at its scheduled playback time, increasing the buffering time so that the first data unit should be received in time; and
- repeating the aforementioned steps for each data unit of the data signal.

169. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 165, wherein the re-ordering ~~device is arranged to estimate~~ includes estimating an expected reduced channel transmission rate in advance.

170. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 165, wherein the re-ordering ~~device is arranged to estimate~~ includes estimating an expected reduced channel transmission rate based on statistics obtained from the behaviour of the transmission channel.

171. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 165, wherein the re-ordering ~~device is arranged to re-order of~~ the data signal ~~to produce~~ includes producing re-ordered data signals for several alternative transmission rates.

172. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 165, wherein the re-ordering ~~device is arranged to adjust~~ includes adjusting the sequence of data units dynamically whilst transmission is occurring.

173. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 165, wherein the re-ordering ~~device is arranged to re-order is for transmission of~~ the data units of a data signal ~~for transmission~~ over a transmission channel having a data transmission bandwidth that would otherwise be insufficient for transmitting the data signal.

174. (Currently amended) A ~~re-ordering device~~ server according to claim 165, wherein the re-ordering ~~device is arranged to re-order is for streaming of~~ the data units of a data signal ~~for streaming~~ over a transmission channel so as to make a certain portion of an available bandwidth available for transmission of other data.

175. (Previously presented) A client device for receiving a data signal for streaming playback at the client device, the data signal comprising a sequence of data units including primary data units and secondary data units, the primary and secondary data units having a scheduled playback time for streaming playback at the client device, an order of the primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units having been changed with respect to an original data unit order by exchanging a secondary data unit that precedes a primary data unit in the original data unit order with the primary data unit so as to produce a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order in which the primary data unit precedes the secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, thereby increasing the likelihood that the primary

data unit will be received at the client device in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time during streaming, the client device being arranged to receive the primary and secondary data units in the modified data unit order and to return the primary and secondary data units to the original data unit order.

176. (Previously presented) A method of receiving a data signal for streaming playback, the data signal comprising a sequence of data units including primary data units and secondary data units, the primary and secondary data units having a scheduled playback time for streaming playback at the client device, an order of the primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units having been changed with respect to an original data unit order by exchanging a secondary data unit that precedes a primary data unit in the original data unit order with the primary data unit so as to produce a re-ordered data signal with a modified data unit order in which the primary data unit precedes the secondary data unit in the sequence of data units, thereby increasing the likelihood that the primary data unit will be received at the client device in time to be played back at its scheduled playback time during streaming, the method comprising receiving the primary and secondary data units in the modified data unit order and returning the primary and secondary data units to the original data unit order.